

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A secondary seal element including a base body (12)-made of a synthetic material, said base body comprising a base portion (13)-and a seal portion-(14), said base and seal portions including coaxially aligned, axially adjacent through bores (17, 31)-for the passage of a component, and an annular disc element (25)-accommodated in said base portion and including a through bore (30)-coaxially aligned with the through bores in the base and seal portions, said annular disc element being formed of a material which differs from that of the base body, ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein in the unloaded state, the through bore (30)-of said annular disc element (25)-has a radial dimension d which is greater than that D_2 of the through bore (31)-of said seal portion (14)-and smaller than that D_1 of said base portion (13)-of the base body-(12), and in that the material of the annular disc element comprises a carbon material.

2. (currently amended) The secondary seal element according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the annular disc element (25)-is provided in a recess (24)-in an end face (15)-of the base portion (13)-and projects axially beyond the end face.

3. (currently amended) The secondary seal element according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the synthetic material of the base body (12)-comprises PTFE.

4. (currently amended) The secondary seal element according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~
~~characterized in~~wherein that the seal portion (14) comprises a pair of radially spaced resilient
web elements (19, 20) having opposed outwardly directed sealing surfaces ~~(22, 23).~~

5. (currently amended) The secondary seal element according to claim 4, ~~characterized~~
~~by~~further comprising means (32) for radially expanding the web elements (19, 20) in a resilient
manner.

6. (currently amended) The secondary seal element according to ~~any of the preceding~~
~~claims~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the base portion (13) has an essentially rectangular
cross section.

7. (currently amended) A mechanical face seal device comprising a pair of cooperating
seal rings (3, 4) of which one is urged towards the other by an axial bias force and is axially
moveably disposed on a sleeve (18), ~~characterized in that,~~wherein for the purpose of sealing said
one sealing seal ring (3) with respect to the sleeve (18), a secondary sealing element (10)
according to ~~any of the claims~~claim 1 to 7 is provided in a thrust ring (5) seated on the sleeve in
axially moveable manner for transmitting said bias force, and wherein the sleeve is formed of a
material having a coefficient of thermal expansion which essentially corresponds to that of the
carbon material of the annular disc element ~~(25).~~

8. (currently amended) The mechanical face seal device according to claim 7,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve (18) is formed of tungsten carbide.